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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*In re* Application of )

Michael A. AVENI, et al. )

Serial Number 09/991,265 )

Filed: November 15, 2001 )

For: FOOTWEAR SOLE WITH A STIFFNESS )  
ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM )

Group Art Unit: 3728

Examiner: Stashick, A.

Attorney Reference: 005127.00078

**RECEIVED**  
**MAY 17 2004**  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 26, 2004, please amend the above-captioned application as follows: